



Coombe Bissett Primary

Newsletter 3 (end of Term 1)

2021-22



KEY THINGS

To support busy parents each newsletter has a short 'key things' at the top.

- **Covid precautions reminder:** Starting from Thursday 14th October until 15th November there will be no celebration of learning and no parent worships. The release of these precautions is dependent on guidance from Wiltshire.
- **Gates:** There will be new gates after half term to meet national guidelines on safeguarding. Parent vehicles will not be able to access the staff car park unless they are registered disabled (please contact the office if you need to discuss). Pedestrian access will be available. A new gate will be installed at the hedge line between playground and field. If parents need to collect their child during the school day a buzzer intercom will be available at the gate to the staff carpark to enable access but the top field will continue to not have access at this time. These projects were delayed from the summer due to the impact of Covid and Brexit on the availability of materials.
- **Parent / Teacher consultations:** These will be held on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th November between 3.30pm and 7pm. You will be able to sign-up for a consultation on a first-come-first-served basis from Monday 1st November onwards. Those parents unable to come in to sign-up (such as taxi children) can ask another parent to sign up or can contact the office that week.
- **Attendance and uniform:** please make every effort to ensure your child is in school every day unless they have covid symptoms, and please remember to follow our school uniform.
- **Reading at home:** Please make every effort to read at home at least 3 to 4 times a week (and record it in the reading record) – this is such a crucial skill for children to develop and unfortunately they will not fully develop it just through reading in school.
- **Term dates:**
 - T1 ends Friday 15/10/21
 - T2 Monday 1/11/21 to Friday 17/12/21
 - T3 Tuesday 4/1/22 to Friday 18/2/22
 - T4 Monday 28/2/22 to Friday 8/3/22
 - T5 Monday 25/4/22 to Friday 27/5/22
 - T6 Monday 6/6/22 to Friday 22/7/22

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CONGRATULATIONS – TERM 1

Well done to all the children for settling in so well to Term 1. They were brilliant – quickly focusing on their learning, rising to meet new challenges, re-connecting with friends, making new friends. An especially big well done to our new children across the school and in Reception for settling in so well their very first term at Coombe Bissett.

It was so lovely to be able to return to some of our wonderful approaches across the school such as our lovely whole school worships in school and the church with parents, our peer leaders running lunchtime clubs for the younger children, our inter-team sports competitions, our paired reading between KS1 and KS2, our library sessions and our pupil councils.

We hope you have a wonderful half term and enjoy the opportunity for holidays that our approach to an extended October half term enables. We look forward to seeing everyone at the start of Term 1 on Monday 1st November.

ECO DAY

On Monday we enjoyed a fantastic Eco Day organized by the children.

The activities included, open fire cooking, planting, bird feeders, den building, and art activities such as fairy house making and weaving on the loom.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to help

SPORTING SUCCESS

This term some of our pupils took part in school to school competitions. They were all brilliant – I was so proud of them, but especially proud as we were the only school who went up to the organizers at the end and thanked them for organizing it.

Our Y5/6 boys came 3rd in their football tournament – missing out on the Semi-finals by 1 goal!

Our Y5/6 girls came 2nd in their football tournament – missing out on the semi-finals by 3 goals!

Our Y5/6 girls won the Trafalgar football tournament! Champions!

Our Y3/4 tri-golf team came 4th in their Tri-golf tournament which qualifies them for the county finals in the summer!

At Coombe Bissett we also run termly inter-team tournaments to allow all children to represent their team in healthy competitive sport. This teaches them the values of teamwork, doing their best, winning and losing with grace, and sports-personship.

The winners of KS1 Hockey were Blue Team and in KS2 it was Green Team.

The winners of the sports-personship trophy in KS1 was Red & Green Teams combined, and in KS2 it was Blue Team.

Congratulations to all.

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100 CLUB AND PARENT FORUMS

If you like to take part in the school /village 100 club please contact Mrs Kirsten Webster.

Unfortunately, we did not have any attendance for the parent forums this term.

In Term 2 we will focus on:

- How we are moving forward as a school in relation to the areas for development raised in the annual Parent Survey:
 - Newsletters being more succinct – the key things section
 - Increased use of my school app – our communication tools
 - Increased clubs for KS1 – we have introduced more clubs
 - Knowing the role of governors
 - Communication on pastoral issues – face to face with teacher/ being able to book longer meetings if needed / adaptation to parent consultations
 - Explaining Learning Powers – see website / see newsletter issued at the end of year and copied below / see the parent learning evening in Term 2
 - Safeguarding – what safeguarding is in school, was sent out and is copied below / additional fencing and gates to be installed this half term

VOTING FOR THE 'BIG POSITIONS'

We delayed our voting on the big positions due to so many absences – but finally held them this week.

We were so impressed by all the candidates – their speeches were incredible!

The final results were as follows:

School Council	Team Captains
Chair = Rosa Vice Chair = Izzy Scribe = Isla	Red = Imogen Green = Jack Blue = Florence Yellow = Marcus

TOKENS TOTALS

As part of our behavior system we issue team tokens for anything from good manners to good learning to kindness and helpfulness. Each week the tokens are counted up across the school and shared as part of collective worship on a Friday. It is a lovely moment as children get to know which team had won that week in each class and the totals across the school.

The totals for Term 1 were as follows:

Red = 669	Yellow = 665	Blue = 766	Green = 669
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Just those little moment of magic can make all the difference at the end of each term.

The winning team get a prize each term. This will be issued at the start of next term.

The winning team also get to choose the next whole school charity.

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The individual children really enjoy the positive validation of those moments of magic. They are focusing on being the best they can be

The teams really enjoy the opportunity to win in class and across the school. They are focusing on being a great team member.

The teams really enjoy the opportunity to choose the next charity. They are focusing on helping those people they may never meet.

All the totals will be added together at the end of the year and the winning team will win 'The Team Cup'.

HARVEST

Thank you to all those who donated items to the Food bank as part of our Harvest Festival. We raised a whopping 207kg – the biggest total ever! Your generosity and kindness for those less fortunate at this particularly challenging time is so gratefully received.

The Harvest Festival held in Church last week was a beautiful occasion. Each class shared something special as their harvest gift and we all enjoyed singing some beautiful hymns together – even though the CD player did not work! Thank you to the kind parent who donated some money to buy a new CD player that we can use in church. Thank you also to all the parents who attended – the church has not been so full in many a long time – it was so joyous!

PUMPKIN CARVING

Wow! What a huge array of pumpkins – from cute to scary they were all so creative! The children absolutely loved looking at them all during the day. Thank you all for your kind donations to the FOCBS.

Thank you to the FOCBS for organizing this and selecting the winners:

YR = Solomon, Y1 = Bethan, Y2 = Tom, Y3 = Toby, Y4 = Florence, Y5 = Aiden, Y6 = Ben, Headteacher's = Edward.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

This year, as in previous years, we will be taking part in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal for children / young people / grandparents in Bulgaria. This is completely optional, and if you are unable to donate an entire shoebox per child you can donate a shoebox as a family or donate items to go in a class shoebox.

We were visited by a representative of the organization who told us all about how it works and the people in Bulgaria who will benefit.

We discussed how children might want to use their pocket money that week to buy the items – giving up something they get regularly so that those who do not even get a Christmas present will get one from us.

Every child received a leaflet about this today in their bags – please follow the instructions, remembering not to seal the box but to use an elastic band instead.

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VALUES – HALF TERM CHALLENGE

Each half-term we encourage you to do an activity with your child focused around the value for that term – this term our Value has been CARE.

You might want to make something, draw a picture, do some cooking, write a story or a poem, write a prayer. Anything is possible.

We would love to see what you have done so please bring it in, or bring in a picture of you doing the activity, at the start of term 2. We would love to make a display out of these so that all the children can see the great CARE going on all around them. This is so powerful for them. In previous schools we regularly got around half the school returning items – I know this school, with our lovely family-centred ethos, will top that!

As you know our school values are: Care, Commitment, Creativity, Belief, Bravery, Brilliance. We live these out each and every day as we see them as great values for life.

This term we are focusing on CARE.

The children have been learning about:

- Love your neighbour as you love yourself
- God is love
- Care for your body, mind, spirit
- Care for God's creation
- Use you gifts to serve others

The bible stories we focused on for the children were:

- The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- Feeding the 5,000 (Luke 9:12-17)
- The story of Ruth

COPIED FROM SUMMER TERM BUT SO THAT YR PARENTS HAVE THE INFORMATION DIAMOND 9 LEARNING POWERS – NOW 'TOP TEN' LEARNING POWERS

It is now widely recognized that good learners have strong metacognitive skills – that they know the skills needed to be a good learner and what they need to do as individuals to improve these skills – not just in English and Maths but in any learning that they do. This is not just school subjects but such things as learning to cook, learning to tie your shoelaces, learning to skateboard, etc.

A quick google of Claxton's "Learning Powers", Dwecks' "Growth Mindset", Debono's "Learning hats", Robsons' "Gem Project" and "Zones of Proximal Development" will demonstrate the wealth of research and theory that forms the backbone of our practice.

Here at Coombe Bissett we have amalgamated them and called these skills and attributes our Top Ten Learning Powers – we have added a 10th identifying good learners have a PRIDE in what they are doing and what they produce. As requested in the Parent Survey, see below for the definition, some brief ways we develop them in school, and some brief ways to develop these at home. But, of course, we are sure you will find many better ways yourself in helping your child to improve these skills and attributes at home.

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Learning Power	What it is	How to improve in school	How to improve at home
PRACTISE	practising spellings / maths / approaches taught	Listen to teachers' advice. Do the tasks teachers set to 'retrieve' knowledge.	Do homework. Practice your skills and your PPTs
PERSEVERANCE	keep on trying even when things are difficult	Listen to teachers' advice. Do the tasks teachers set that aim to build perseverance.	Set tasks that are a little bit difficult but age appropriate. Let the child complete the task, don't do it for them to save time. Don't give in if a child says I can't do this.
FOCUS	independently stays on task, manages distractions	Follow the SMART advice. Listen to teachers' advice. Get 'into' the thing you are doing in class.	Jigsaw puzzles. Lego models. Turning off the TV when doing homework. No phones at the dinner table.
LISTEN TO AND LEARN FROM OTHERS	pays attention, actively listens	Listen to teachers' advice. Respect others by tracking the speaker and being an active listener.	Discuss things at the dinner table allowing each person to be the 'expert' on an area. Read lots. Encourage enquiry / questioning.
CHALLENGE YOURSELF	be independent to try to improve, try your best	Listen to teachers' advice. Do something a bit difficult, a bit beyond your current skills.	Set fun and attainable challenges for each other. Let the child complete the task, don't do it for them to save time.
COLLABORATE	work well with others	Listen to teachers' advice. Follow the tasks where you are encouraged to work with others, form different groups.	Tackle a task together like making something, cooking, tidying.
SET GOALS	aim to achieve something, work hard to achieve it	Listen to teachers' advice.	Set a goal for the day, the week...have a chart for this...agree a reward and deliver reward when achieved.
QUESTION / IMAGINE	be independent, ask questions, be creative	Listen to teachers' advice. Ask a question in class. Apply yourself in full to the creative tasks and enjoy the opportunity it brings.	Encourage your child to ask why, what if...and then enjoy finding out the answers together. Enjoy making things together but let your child take the lead.
ORGANISE	independently organises their equipment for learning	Listen to teachers' advice. Look after your learning packs.	Tidy your room so things have their own place. Have set times for things.

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PRIDE	does their best in their learning	Write neatly. Produce as much as you can. Glue in neatly. Try your best.	In whatever you do, always try to do it to the best of your abilities.... “if something is worth doing it is worth doing well”
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COPIED FROM SUMMER TERM SO THAT NEW PARENTS HAVE THE INFORMATION
SCHOOL APPROACH TO SAFEGUARDING – INCLUDING AN UPDATE

Please see our Child Protection Policy on the school website.

However, basically:

- The school carries out DBS checks on all adults working with children.
- The school staff are trained annually on child protection procedures.
- If a member of staff has a safeguarding concern about a child they will complete a confidential concern form.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mr Basinger-Adams) and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mr Wyatt) will review these concerns regularly taking the appropriate action.
- Appropriate actions can include:
 - Monitoring the situation
 - Discussion with parents
 - An anonymous advice call to MASH for advice
 - Call to Social Services
 - Call to the Police

Please Note – Under guidance from Keeping Children safe in Education 2021 – poor behavior in school is now to be considered in the light of a potential safeguarding concern as well. Staff have received training in this.

Safeguarding covers:

- Risk Assessments and ongoing Risk assessment of the school site and school activities.
- Risk Assessments of all off-site school activities.
- Ensuring that the only adults in school are those cleared by a DBS.
- Medical care is followed from 1st Aid to medical care plans.
- Recently – Covid precautions.
- Observing children’s behaviours and any marks / injuries.
- Observing peer to peer behaviours.
- Listening to children’s sharing of any incidents that may have happened in school and out of school.
- Observing parental behaviour towards children.
- As part of the curriculum, teaching children about safeguarding.

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